

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 IGA-02 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 171322Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8554

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 14823

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS PK FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN

1. THE DELHI PRESS WIDELY REPORTED AND ULTIMATELY THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENIED AN AFP REPORT WHICH QUOTED FRENCH FOREIGN SECRETARY LJEAN DE LIPKOWSKI AS INDICATING FRANCE MIGHT SELL ARMS TO PAKISTAN TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE VIS-A-VIS INDIA.

2. THE ORIGINAL STORY, DATELINED ISLAMABAD DECEMBER 9, REPORTED THAT LIPKOWSKI SAID, "WE DO NOT LIKE ARMS RACE, BUT WHEN ONE PARTY RECEIVES

AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF ARMS THE OTHER HAS THE RIGHT TO ARM ITSELF."

THIS SET OFF A FLURRY OF CRITICAL PRESS COMMENT, SOME OF

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WHICH WAS TIED TO REPORTS OF TRIPARTITE DEALS FOR ARMS PURCHASE OR

PRODUCTION AMONG FRANCE, PAKISTAN, AND THE PERSIAN GULF STATES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH TOLD PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 14 THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT "DENIED THAT LIPKOWSKI MADE ANY REFERENCE TO THE ARMS RACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT AND TO THE QUESTION OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO PAKISTAN TO REDRESS THE BALANCE." (LIPKOWSKI ONLY REFERRED TO THE ARMS RACE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPE, ACCORDING TO SWARAN SINGH.)

SWARAN SINGH ADDED THAT INDIA HAD SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IN PAKISTAN WITH FRENCH TECHNOLOGY

AND ARAB MONEY. "WE ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING THE SITUATION," HE SAID. "THE FRENCH ATTITUDE IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLY OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT IS NOT SO MUCH POLITICAL AS COMMERCIAL, AND THEIR GENERAL POLICY IS TO SELL ARMS TO ANY COUNTRY WHICH IS PREPARED TO PAY THE PRICE... IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING FRENCH EQUIPMENT, I DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE SAME ON PAYMENT."MOYNIHAN

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